

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MA, CU, CI, US (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER)

SUBJ: MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT OF CUBA

AND POPULAR UNITY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE

1. ALL MAJOR MEDIA OF SEPT 18, INCLUDING GOVT-CONTROLLED PRESS BULLETIN, CARRY STORY FROM "GENERALLY WELL INFORMED SOURCE" THAT FONMIN RATSIRAKA HAS SENT MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO CUBAN COUNTERPART. IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE APPARENTLY RECEIVED FROM LATTER, RATSIRAKA REPORTEDLY ASSURED HIM THAT HEAD OF GOVT GEN RAMANANTSOA HAD ALREADY SENT MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO CASTRO ON OCCASION ALLENDE'S DEATH "FOLLOWING ILLEGAL AND CRIMINAL ACTION OF IMPERIALIST REACTIONARIES IN CHILE".

2. STORY QUOTES RATSIRAKA MESSAGE AS SAYING, "I HAVE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR UN DEL TO DEFEND CAUSE OF CUBAN GOVT AND PEOPLE AS WELL AS CHILEAN GOVT OF POPULAR UNITY, VICTIM OF FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, VIENNA CONVENTION, AND UN CHARTER". MESSAGE ENDS WITH REQUEST TO PASS SINCER GOMR SYMPATHY TO ALLENDE'S WIDOW.

3. COMMENT: GOMR THUS CONTINUES TO LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEMPT STRENGTHEN CREDENTIALS WITH MALAGASY LEFT BY TAKING POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH THEY ARE CONFIDENT REALLY COST LITTLE OR NOTHING IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US. WE DOUBT THAT THERE IS VERY

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LITTLE TO BE DONE ON THIS SCORE AS LONG AS OLD FRIENDS OF US, PARTICULARLY AFRICAN ONES SUCH AS ZAIRE, ETHIOPIA AND TUNISIA,

APPEAR NOT WILLING TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED IN FORA SUCH AS RECENTLY CONCLUDED NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE ALGIERS.
MENDENHALL

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